enhanced and loans should be issued in small amounts to the needy agriculturists, at a low rate of interest. The Government should also see that the loans issued for agricultural purposes were utilised for that purpose.

The road from Panachamoodu to Kochikal should be widened and gravelled. There was only a distance of a mile from Panachamoodu, on the 5th mile, 6th furlong of the Kayankulam-Mannar road, to the centre of the town. Out of this, the road had been gravelled for a length of 4 furlongs, up to Kochikal. The remaining portion should also be gravelled. The portion of the road near the Kattuvalli temple, should be deviated a little, after acquiring the necessary land, so as to tide over the difficulty pointed out by the Devaswom department in converting the road near the temple premises into a public road.

The road from Valiaperumpuzha to Mannar should be improved and gravelled. There was very large pedestrian traffic on the road. The road was sufficiently wide and no additional lands had to be acquired. Neither bridges nor culverts had to be constructed. If improved, the road would be of very great use to the people.

A small bridge should be constructed at Eran *todu*, on the road leading to 6th mile of Kayankulam-Mannar road from Kandiyoor temple. The *todu* was only 12 feet wide and there was originally a stone bridge.

The construction of the *Aratlukadavu* bridge should be expedited, so also the works connected with the opening of the canal for Karingalichal at Nooranad, for irrigational purposes.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Pappu pillai. You have referred to several points in your representation. With regard to the roads, culverts and bridges that you mentioned, they will be referred to the Chief Engineer and orders will be passed on his report.

You then referred to agricultural loans. You are aware that Government have set apart an additional amount for this purpose. They also try to see that when an agricultural loan is granted the money is utilised for the purpose for which it was taken from the Government. Your suggestion that more attention must be devoted to the subject will be referred to the Land Reveuue Commissioner.

You want a small bridge across the Eran *todu*. The Chief Engineer says that he is asking his subordinate there to consult you and then report on the matter.

The design of the bridge to be constructed across the Prayikara river is being revised. When the revised design and estimates are received, the matter will be taken up.

Your suggestions and representations will receive the consideration of Government.

115. Needs of the Pattanamtitta taluk.

MR. C. MATHAI MATHEW (*Pattanamtitta taluk*) spoke about the following needs of the taluk :--

A Veterinary Hospital should be established at Pattanamtitta. There were only 13 Veterinary Hospitals in the whole State and this

was hardly sufficient for an agricultural country like Travancore. Pattanamtitta taluk was primarily an agricultural taluk and the nearest Veterinary Hospital was at Tiruvalla, 20 miles away. Hence the establishment of a Veterinary Hospital was an urgent necessity of the taluk.

Though numerous representations had been made in the previous sessions of the Assembly, to throw open for registry the marshy lands in the Reserve Forests of the taluk, for paddy cultivation, nothing had been done yet in the matter. The Reserve Forest in the taluk was 709 square miles in area. Early steps should be taken for throwing open for registry the lands fit for paddy cultivation.

The Kodumon and Kariculam Reserves contained large patches of marshy lands fit for paddy cultivation. These forests lay detached from the main Reserves and were surrounded by occupied lands and habitations. Their presence amidst cultivated lands increased the danger of forest fires in the dry season. Further, they were covered with only low forests which had no great value as forest products. Portions of them should therefore be thrown up for paddy cultivation.

Better encouragement should be given to the *Vishavaidyasalas* in the taluk at Oomallur, Nariyapuram, Elavanthitta and Ranni by the award of grants-in-aid. The taluk included great forest areas and hence the people were exposed to the constant danger of poisonous bites of dangerous reptiles and insects. Only two of the above four *Vaidyasalas* in the taluk had been recognised and none of them were in receipt of any grants-in-aid. All the four *Vishavaidyasalas* in the taluk should be recognised and should be given proper grants.

The Ayurveda *Vaidyasalas* at Vallikode, Elavanthitta and Keekozhur should be awarded grants, to afford better medical aid to the people of the localities, who had to walk long distances to go to the hospitals at Pattanamthitta, Konni, Thumbamon and Adoor.

The major portion of the commerce of the taluk was borne by the river Pampa. But the river was steadily deteriorating as a navigable water-way, for want of proper maintenance and improvements. In the dry season, the portion of the river between Vadasserikara and Edathua became too shallow for the use of bigger *vallams* and consequently much inconvenience was caused to the people. Mr. John Kuriyan, in his Inland Navigation Report, had clearly brought out these difficulties and had suggested the necessary improvements to the upper reaches of the river, to make it fully navigable at all the seasons of the year. The Government also had done something to improve matters by alloting small sums in the budget for the purpose. But the present allotments were too small and at least Rs. 100 per mile should be provided annually for the maintenance of the river. The smaller maintenance works should be entrusted to the local co-operative societies. The amounts spent on improvements could be realised by the Government by extending the provisions of the Canal Regulation to the unlicensed *vallams* plying on this portion of the river. Mr. John Kuriyan's report on the subject should also be published.

The ryots' road from Thumbamon to Kozhencherry should be taken up for departmental maintenance at a very early date. The subject was represented several times at the previous sessions of the Assembly, but nothing had yet been done in the matter.

The bridges at the Kumbazha and Ranni crossings should be constructed, with a view to develop fully the main route of the State through the hill side.

The necessary bridges should be provided on the Pandalam-Oomallur road, with a view to remedy the inconvenience to heavy traffic at the Kaipattur ferry crossing on the Pandalam-Pattanamthitta route.

The following roads should be improved :—

(*a*) The Kaipattur-Konni road *via* Thrikovil ;
(*b*) the Kumbazha-Konni road *via* Vettur-Vadakkekara ;
(*c*) the Mannarkulanji-Kozhencherry road ;
(*d*) the Pattanamthitta-Thazhur *kadavu* road ; and
(*e*) the Ranni-Valiyakavu road.

The following ryots' roads should be taken over for departmental maintenance :—

(*a*) the Cherukol-Ranni road ;
(*b*) the Pattanamthitta-Kadambanad road ; and
(*c*) the Othimoodu-Kumbalampuzha road.

The present working of the Roard Boards was not satisfactory. The non-official S. M. P. A. members were changing every year. Village Boards and Taluk Boards should be constituted for the guidance of the District Boards.

The Land Revenue Department was not taking prompt action in handing over to the P. W. D. the lands surrendered for the ryots' roads. The present practice of surveying the ryots' roads without planting stones caused unnecessary delay and confusion. These defects should be remedied.

The Maistries of the Public Works Department, who were now entrusted with responsible works, should be drafted to the permanent establishment.

It was 15 years since the co-operative movement was inaugurated in Travancore and it had expanded considerably, to the great advantage of the people. But its growth was only one-sided, *viz.*, on the credit side. For deriving the full utility from the movement, much remained to be done. The supervision and audit of societies was insufficient and defective. The staff of the department should be suitably strengthened by the appointment of men with experience in the work. A committee should be appointed to enquire into and find out the defects in the present system and suggest ways and means to remedy them. The status of the head of the department, the Registrar, should be raised and the post should be made sufficiently attractive. The non-official workers and institutions should be encouraged by sanctioning sufficient grants to do more propaganda work among the masses and to enable them to conduct co-operative training classes.

The scheme for the introduction of Land Mortgage Banks should be given effect to immediately to provide long-term capital for agricultural improvements.

Lastly, the member requested that immediate measures should be adopted to stem the tide of the great economic depression in the country and welcomed the proposal to appoint a committee mentioned in the Dewan's opening address.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Mathai Mathew. The two new subjects which you suggested towards the close of your representation relate to matters which have come up before the Assembly and they are being considered by Government. I would request you to leave it at that.

With regard to the subjects of your representation, there was a committee appointed in your taluk for finding out what swampy areas could be disafforested. They recommended disafforestation of several blocks. Notifications regarding the disafforestation of some of the blocks have been issued and some parts have already been disafforested. As regards the others, they are in the processes of disafforestation and the department concerned will be asked to expedite the operation.

A portion of the Kodumon Reserve has already been taken up for dissafforestation. The experts connected with forestry are of opinion that the other portions have to be retained as forests. The portions that have already been earmarked for disafforestation will be disafforested and registered.

With regard to the ryots' roads, the policy of the Government is as far as possible to take them over for departmental maintenance when they are properly constructed and if they satisfy the conditions laid down in the rules for their being taken over. The Chief Engineer will be asked to see if the roads which you mentioned satisfy the conditions; and if they do, they will be taken over for maintenance by the department.

Your suggestions with regard to the Road Board will be considered when the constitution of the Road Board is revised.

The other matters that you represented will also receive the careful consideration of Government.

116. Needs of the Tiruvalla taluk.

MR. KANAKKU KESAVA PILLAI PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla taluk, Group I*), speaking in Malayalam, dealt with the following needs of the Tiruvalla taluk :—

The Vengal-Alanthuruthi road, which, after passing through Tiruvalla town, Kavumbhagom, Peringol, Vengal and Alanthuruthi, joined the main road to Changanachery, remained to be improved for a length of 3 furlongs. This portion of the road should be improved and the culverts required should be constructed. Similarly, the works connected with the Mepral road branching off from the above road at Peringol